

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region

Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 98-118

For

Largesse, Inc.  
ADACO, Limited, Inc.  
18781 North Highway One, Fort Bragg  
Case 1TMC030  
and  
Fort Bragg Oil Company  
18770 North Highway One, Fort Bragg  
Case 1TMC383

Mendocino County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (hereinafter Regional Water Board), finds that:

1. At the request of Regional Water Board staff, several domestic wells located in a residential area south of Fort Bragg were sampled between July 1997 and August 1998. The samples were requested due to the proximity of the wells to two underground storage tank release sites. Six domestic wells were found to have drinking water containing MtBE at concentrations between 1 and 18 parts per billion (ppb). MtBE was documented in wells at the following addresses: 18760 Cypress Road, 18750 Cypress Road, 18800 Old Coast Highway, and 18700 North Highway One, 18770 North Highway One, and 18750 Old Coast Highway.
2. MtBE currently has a drinking water advisory of 35 ppb to avoid neurotoxic effects in humans. The Office of Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) is proposing a Public Health Goal (PHG) of 14 ppb in drinking water to avoid carcinogenic effects in humans. The Department of Health Services (DHS) is considering adoption of 5 ppb as a Secondary Drinking Water Standard. Therefore, the presence of MtBE in these domestic wells constitutes "threatened pollution and contamination."
3. Largesse, Inc. owns a former gasoline service station located at 18781 North Highway One, Fort Bragg (Attachment A). The subject site was an operating gas station between 1947 and 1988. The site is currently an automobile repair shop. In May 1988, Regional Water Board staff received notification that a release had occurred from the underground petroleum storage tank (UST) system at the site. At the time of the reported release, the station was owned by ADACO, Limited, Inc. (ADACO). ADACO later formed Largesse, Inc., which is an alter ego of ADACO for the purposes of this Order. In addition, Largesse, Inc., is named in this Order as the current owner of the site. Excavation of 100 cubic yards of soil was completed following the removal of two

500-gallon and three 1,000-gallon underground storage tanks. Sixteen monitoring wells (MWs) and sixty borings were completed on the site, and in the vicinity, during 1989 and 1990. Petroleum product was discharged from the UST system and flowed toward the residential area. Monitoring and Reporting Program (M&R) No. 91-76 was adopted on May 23, 1991. Monitoring for MtBE commenced in June 1997. MtBE has been detected at low concentrations in MWs on this property.

4. Fort Bragg Oil Company operates a gasoline service station located at 18770 North Highway One, Fort Bragg (Attachment A). In early 1998, the underground storage tank system was removed and a new system was installed on this site. Preliminary information indicates that low concentrations of MtBE are present in groundwater on this property. Staff has requested that the owner of this potential source conduct a hydrogeologic investigation.
5. Current information supports the conclusion that both sources may be causing the impact on the residential area. Therefore, this Order is being issued to potential responsible parties from both sites. ADACO/Largesse, Inc. and Fort Bragg Oil Company are hereinafter referred to as “dischargers.” This Order also requires the collection and submission of additional information. Upon consideration of that additional information, this Order may be revised, if appropriate.
6. Both sites are located in the Hare Creek Drainage Basin. Hare Creek is a coastal tributary in the Noyo River Watershed.
7. The Regional Water Board adopted the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Basin. Existing and potential beneficial uses of minor coastal streams as designated in the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region, include:
  - a) municipal supply
  - b) agricultural supply
  - c) domestic supply
  - d) industrial service supply
  - e) groundwater recharge
  - f) water contact recreation
  - g) non-contact water recreation
  - h) cold freshwater habitat
  - i) wildlife habitat
  - j) migration route for anadromous fish
  - k) fish spawning area
  - l) commercial and sport fishing
  - m) estuarine habitat
  - n) aquaculture

8. Beneficial uses of the areal groundwater as designated in the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region, include:
  - a) municipal supply
  - b) domestic supply
  - c) industrial service supply
  - d) groundwater recharge
9. The petroleum discharges to groundwater have caused nuisance and pollution, as defined by Section 13050(l) and (m) of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (California Water Code).
10. The dischargers have caused or permitted, or threatened to cause or permit, waste to be discharged or deposited where it is, or probably will be, discharged into the waters of the state and creates, or threatens to create, a condition of pollution and/or nuisance, and shall, upon order of the Regional Water Board, clean up the waste or abate the effects of the waste, or, in the case of threatened pollution or nuisance, take other necessary remedial action, including, but not limited to, overseeing cleanup and abatement efforts.
11. This enforcement action is being taken for the protection of the environment and to enforce a general standard as set forth in the Basin Plan. Therefore, this enforcement action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et. seq.) in accordance with Sections 15308 and 15321, Chapter 3, Title 14, California Code of Regulations.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that M&R Program 91-76 for Case No. 1TMC030 is rescinded and, pursuant to California Water Code Sections 13267 and 13304, the dischargers shall:

1. Mitigate pollution and nuisance conditions by providing, forthwith, potable water to all residences with a positive confirmation of petroleum hydrocarbons or oxygenates in well water. Domestic wells at the following addresses have been confirmed as positive for MtBE contamination:
  - 18760 Cypress Road
  - 18750 Cypress Road
  - 18800 Old Coast Highway
  - 18750 Old Coast Highway
  - 18770 North Highway One
  - 18700 North Highway One

1. Comply with enclosed Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 98-119.
2. Submit by December 15, 1998, a complete compilation and summary of hydrogeologic data collected during previous investigations.
3. Submit by December 15, 1998, a workplan detailing an investigation to further determine the source(s) of MtBE and to define the limits of the groundwater plume.
4. Conduct a thorough search of well construction logs for the impacted domestic wells and submit the results to this agency by December 31, 1998.

If, for any reason, the dischargers are unable to perform any activity or submit any document in compliance with the work schedule submitted pursuant to this Order and approved by the Executive Officer, the discharger may request, in writing, an extension of time as specified. The extension request shall include justification for this delay. An extension may be granted for good cause, in which case the Order will be accordingly revised.

Ordered by \_\_\_\_\_

Lee A. Michlin  
Executive Officer

November 2, 1998